

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on March 22, 2006. Claims 1-6 are amended, without change of scope, in order to more idiomatically describe the present invention.

Restriction was required amongst:

- I.      Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-9;
- II.     Claims 2, 4, 6, and 10-12; and
- III.    Claim 13.

Applicants elect the invention identified as "III.", claim 13. This election is made with traverse.

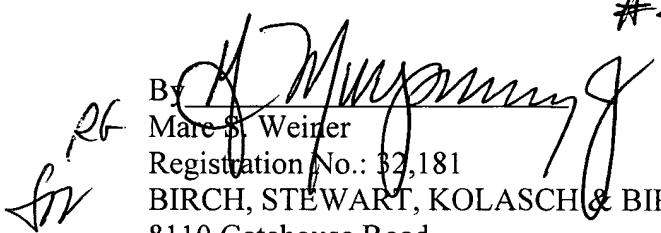
Applicants traverse the requirement for restriction as follows. Regarding restriction between microorganism Group III. on the one hand and process Groups I. and II. on the other hand, the Examiner argues that the microorganism of Group III. can be used to produce enzymes. It is not clear, however, that such production of enzymes is a "process of using" in the sense of MPEP 806.05(h). Claims 1 and 2 herein recite processes of using the microorganism of Group III. The production of enzymes by that microorganism is not a synthetic process, as are the processes of claims 1 and 2. Instead it is more akin to a function of the microorganism. Regarding restriction between the processes of Group I. and Group II., the Examiner argues that "the classification is different". However, in setting forth the requirement for restriction, the Examiner indicates that both groups are classified in 435/105. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the requirement for restriction and examine all of claims 1-13 herein on their merits.

If there are any questions concerning this application, please contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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